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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Civil Defence and Miscellaneous Information on the Prague area

DATE DISTR.

3 June 1954

NO. OF PAGES

1

REQUIREMENT

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REFERENCES

25X1 DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

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1. At several places in Prague large air raid shelters are under construction. one started beneath the new hospital in Karlovo namesti, Prague II. Building of this hospital had been started by the Germans in the last war and it now serves as the District Health Center (Okrskove zdravotni stredisko). The shelter under construction beneath it is said to be of huge dimensions, extending from the hospital towards the river, in the direction of the Mala Strana section of Prague. Another huge air raid shelter is allegedly under construction in the hill beneath the Hradcany Castle and the Chotkovy Sady Park, which also contains a hospital. All wartime shelters are being restored and new ones constructed in industrial plants.
2. No blackout instructions for houses have been issued yet. however, such instructions were issued a year ago for all ministries.
3. Public alarm sirens have not been tested yet, but in factories this is being done from time to time.
4. Old water reservoirs are being restored and new ones are under construction. One of them is in Karlovo namesti, Prague II, replacing a former playground for children; another one between Vodickova Street and Jungmannovo Square in the St. Francis garden in Prague II. All this is construction paid for by the government, and people are grumbling about the waste of money.
5. Medicines are very scarce. Doctors are complaining of being unable to prescribe even the most essential ones. Even cotton wool is scarce, as well as good grade aspirin.
6. Blood donations are being greatly solicited. Prior to the monetary reform donors received extra food rations, but, as these have stopped, there are few blood donors now.

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